



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Patent Art Unit: 3725

Examiner: J. Husar

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DEC 27 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In the Action, the application is restricted to Group I, including claims 1-6 directed to a process for transporting a particulate water-absorbent resin, Group II, including claims 7-12 directed to a process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin, and Group III, including claims 13-15 directed to a process for producing a particulate water-absorbent resin. In response, Applicants provisionally elect the Group II claims, including claims 7-12, for prosecution in this application. This election is made with traverse.

The Action contends that the Groups are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not capable of use together and have different modes of operation, different functions or different effects. The Action concludes that the groups of claims have different functions but does not explain how the claimed process steps provide a different function. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the basis for the restriction is not well-founded and should be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 20, 2002